

REMARKS

In view of the above the following remarks, further examination is respectfully requested.

The Applicant would like to thank Examiner Luks for conducting a telephone interview on April 17, 2008 in connection with the above-identified application.

Claims 15-19, 22-25 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Czerwinski (U.S. 2003/0068068) in view of Honda (JP 05103395). Further, claims 20, 21, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Czerwinski, Honda and Saiki (U.S. 6,208,237). These rejections are respectfully traversed and believed clearly inapplicable to claims 15-28 for the reasons discussed below.

During the interview (as noted on the Interview Summary Sheet), the Examiner acknowledged that Honda 395' is directed to a spider/damper element, comparable to the spider 25, as disclosed in Czerwinski. Further, the Examiner acknowledged that the spider/damper element of Honda 395' cannot be combined with the surround 15 of Czerwinski, as set forth in the Office Action of January 16, 2008, since the spider/damper of Honda 395' is (i) a completely different structural element than the surround 15 of Czerwinski and (ii) provides a completely different function than the surround 15 of Czerwinski.

As a result, during the interview the Examiner kindly agreed that, upon the Applicants filing a response, he would dismiss the Honda 395' reference as prior art, since, as discussed above, Honda 395' cannot be combined with the surround 15 of Czerwinski.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Honda 395', Czerwinski and Saiki fail to render obvious the invention of independent claim 15 and claims 16-28 that depend therefrom.

Accordingly, it is submitted that a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would not have found it obvious to modify Honda 395', Czerwinski and/or Saiki in such a manner as to result in, or otherwise render obvious the present invention as recited in claims 15-28. Thus, claims 15-28 are clearly allowable over Honda 395', Czerwinski and Saiki.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance and an early notification thereof is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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